

RESOURCE ALLOCATION FORMULA (RAF)

The Co-ordination and Policing Committee of the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) today (11th February 2005) agreed the Resource Allocation Formula for 2005/6.

RAF is used to allocate police officers between the Borough command units (BOCUs) of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS). It is a 'distribution' formula only – it does not determine how many officers each BOCU needs, nor what the total number of officers should be. It is simply the mechanism by which the total number of officers in Territorial Policing (from within the MPS as a whole) are distributed amongst the various BOCUs.

A review of RAF was commissioned at the end of 2003. The previous version of RAF was agreed by the MPA in 2002 and was to last 3 years. Today the MPA signed off the final version of RAF, and agreed the police officer allocations under RAF for 2005/6.

In considering the number of officers each BOCU has been allocated, it is important to note that the figures do not incorporate the officers allocated to Boroughs under the Safer Neighbourhoods scheme. On top of the existing 3 Safer Neighbourhood teams of 3 PCs and 3 PCSOs per Borough already rolled out, an extra 5 such teams will be rolled out per Borough in 2005/6. Nor do the figures reflect the central units of the MPS that exist to support Borough policing – such as the Territorial Support Group and the Serious Crime Directorate – which make up the balance of the force.

COMPONENTS OF THE FORMULA

RAF has 3 main components:

1/Need - intended to reflect the longer-term social and environmental factors that affect the need for policing on boroughs, and includes such indicators as the level of deprivation, the geography of a borough, the level of drug use and mental illness, night-time economy etc.

2/Demand - The number of reported incidents, crimes and associated case papers processed on a borough. This includes the workload associated with responding to calls, investigating crime, processing prisoners through custody and preparing cases for court.

3/Opening the Shop - This relates to the core infrastructure posts for the BOCU (essentially its fixed costs), takes account of the resourcing implications of posts that are designated as mandatory. Essentially, this component is not related to volume and will be the same allocation for every BOCU.

In addition, RAF also considers the particular role of London, and some boroughs within London, as a capital city. Under the formula's **Capital City and Security** component, the need to maintain high levels of visibility in certain areas, terrorism, and the number of major tourist attractions are taken into account resulting in a higher allocation for identified boroughs.

The Commissioner retains a discretion – called the **Commissioner's Judgement** – to allocate additional officers to a particular borough in exceptional circumstances if the addition of police officers in one borough results in a safer city than if those officers were allocated

according to the formula. Any allocations are unlikely to exceed 0.2% of the total number of officers to be apportioned. For 2005/6, this discretion has been used to allocate an additional 25 officers to Brent. After an intervention by LibDem MPA Member Graham Tope, the MPA and MPS agreed that the Commissioner's Judgement should be subject to regular review by the MPA.

APPLICATION OF THE FORMULA

The MPA has decided to adopt a 'no losers' approach in the application of the formula. For 2005/6, therefore, **no BOCU will receive an officer allocation of less than their current Budgeted Workforce Target (BWT)**, regardless of the application of the 'pure' formula. This is considered to be the fairest and most practical means of implementing the results.

The MPA has also decided to **impose a cap of a maximum growth of 2% over a BOCU's existing BWT**. Taking together with the no losers approach, a cap will mean a reduced shift in resources between boroughs and can also be funded more easily within existing resources. This will mean that some BOCUs will not receive the allocation they would have received were the 'pure' RAF applied.

LIBDEM POSITION

The Liberal Democrat Group has **supported** this approach from a London-wide perspective on the basis that it ensures no borough is disadvantaged, while still constituting a move towards a fairer allocation of resources, of which the Liberal Democrats have been consistent advocates.

We have also taken into account the fact that the outcomes for each BOCU remain broadly similar, while the impact of the 2% cap is confined to a small handful of BOCUs.

The enclosed table shows the number of officers allocated to each BOCU under the option agreed today by the MPA. The column headed 'Capped RAF 05/06 no Losers' indicates the total number of officers per BOCU for 2005/6 as agreed by the MPA.

Further information

1. For a fuller explanation of the formula and its components, please follow the following link to the relevant MPA report:
<http://www.mpa.gov.uk/committees/cop/2005/050211/04.htm>
2. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Gavin Lim at the London Assembly Liberal Democrat Group, 020 7983 4951 or at gavin.lim@london.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Police officer numbers under RAF 2005/6

Borough	Existing BWT ²	2% Cap ¹		2% Cap ¹ no Losers	
		Capped RAF 05/06	Difference Capped RAF and Existing BWT	Capped RAF 05/06 no Losers	Difference Capped RAF no Losers and Existing BWT
Haringey	671	685	14	685	14
Lewisham	621	634	13	634	13
Wandsworth	567	579	12	579	12
Islington	666	676	10	676	10
Croydon	650	660	10	660	10
Lambeth	939	947	8	947	8
Redbridge	427	435	8	435	8
Harrow	322	329	7	329	7
Merton	327	334	7	334	7
Kingston upon Thames	264	269	5	269	5
Hammersmith & Fulham	513	516	3	516	3
Waltham Forest	526	529	3	529	3
Newham	759	761	2	761	2
Southwark	854	856	2	856	2
Barnet	535	537	2	537	2
Bromley	444	444	0	444	0
Hackney	739	739	0	739	0
Sutton	274	273	-1	274	0
Brent	668	666	-2	668	0
Hounslow	484	482	-2	484	0
Greenwich	580	576	-4	580	0
Enfield	543	538	-5	543	0
Richmond upon Thames	275	270	-5	275	0
Barking & Dagenham	402	396	-6	402	0
Bexley	340	334	-6	340	0
Havering	349	343	-6	349	0
Westminster	1541	1533	-8	1541	0
Hillingdon	464	455	-9	464	0
Kensington & Chelsea	544	534	-10	544	0
Ealing	664	651	-13	664	0
Tower Hamlets	741	727	-14	741	0
Camden	807	792	-15	807	0

Number of officers required for no losers **106**

Sum required for no losers (£)³ **3,303,596**

Estimated contribution to support costs (£) **700,000**

TOTAL (£) 4,003,596

¹ Includes Commissioner's Judgement for Brent (25 officers)

² BWT does not include externally funded posts

³ Based on assumption of £31,166 average police officer pay